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Appl S.N. 10/523176

Amendment to Office Action dated March 9, 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A lancing lancet unit for supplying a lancet to and removing the lancet from comprising:

a lancing member to be mounted, in use, to a lancing apparatus which includes a housing having a front end formed with an opening and a movable member provided in the housing reciprocally movably; and, the lancet unit comprising:

a case temporarily attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus at the time of supplying the lancet to and removing the lancet from the lancing apparatus;

a support member provided in the case for removably supporting the lancing member lancet within the case; and

engagement means provided on the support member within the case for removing the lancet from the lancing apparatus;

wherein the lancing member is capable of being fitted and mounted lancet is supplied from the support member to the movable member so as to be capable of being pulled out of the movable member toward the front end side of the housing when the case is attached to the housing in the first state, the lancing member lancet including an engagement surface which is oriented toward a rear side of the housing when the lancing member lancet is mounted to the movable member; and

wherein the support member includes engagement means which is inserted into the housing of the lancing apparatus through the opening for engagement with the engagement surface of the lancet for subsequent removal of the lancet from the movable member of the lancing apparatus when the lancing member is mounted to the movable member case is attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus in a second state.

2. (Currently Amended) The lancing lancet unit according to claim 1, wherein the lancing member lancet includes a needle, and a body supporting the needle.

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3. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancet~~ lancet unit according to claim 2, wherein the body has an outer circumferential surface formed with a stepped portion comprising a recess or a projection, the engagement surface being provided by the stepped portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancet~~ lancet unit according to claim 3, wherein the engagement means includes at least one engagement projection extending in a first direction in which the needle of the ~~lancet~~ lancet extends and having a front end formed with a pawl projecting in a second direction crossing the first direction.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancet~~ lancet unit according to claim 4, wherein the engagement means includes a plurality of engagement projections, and wherein the engagement projections are engageable with the engagement surface in such a manner as to clip the ~~lancet~~ lancet when the ~~lancet~~ lancet is mounted to the movable member case is attached to the housing of the lancet apparatus in the second state.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancet~~ lancet unit according to claim 5, wherein the stepped portion of the body comprises a flange;

wherein pawls of the engagement projections are spaced from each other by a distance which is smaller than an outer diameter or a width of the stepped portion; and

wherein, when the engagement projections are inserted into the housing in [[a]] the second state in which the lancet is mounted to the movable member, each of the engagement projections resiliently deforms in the second direction due to contact with the stepped portion so that each of the pawls passes over the stepped portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancet~~ lancet unit according to claim 2, wherein the support member includes a cap for covering the needle of the ~~lancet~~ lancet and removably supporting the ~~lancet~~ lancet.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancet~~ lancet unit according to claim 7, wherein a boundary portion between the body and the cap has a structure which is more liable to receive stress than other portions of the body and the cap.

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9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancing~~ lancet unit according to claim 2, further comprising an analytical part and additional engagement means both provided in the case;

wherein the analytical part is removably supported by the support member so that the analytical part can be mounted at a predetermined position in the lancing apparatus in ~~mounting~~ supplying the lancing-member lancet to the movable member when the case is attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus in the first state, the analytical part including an additional engagement surface which is oriented toward [[a]] the rear side of the housing when the analytical part is mounted to the predetermined position; and

wherein, when the additional engagement means is inserted, through the opening, into the housing in [[a]] the first state in which the analytical part is separated from the support member and mounted to the predetermined position in the lancing apparatus, the additional engagement means engages the additional engagement surface of the analytical part.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancing~~ lancet unit according to claim 10, wherein the additional engagement means includes an additional engagement projection extending in a first direction in which the needle of the ~~lancing-member lancet~~ extends and having a front end formed with a pawl projecting in a second direction crossing the first direction.

12 - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancing~~ lancet unit according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 7, wherein the ~~support-member case~~ includes a partition wall partitioning an interior of the ~~tubular-potion case~~ into a first and a second chambers adjoining each other in an axial direction of the housing; and

wherein the cap, the ~~lancing-member lancet~~ and the analytical parts are arranged in the first chamber, whereas the ~~first and the second~~ engagement means [[are]] is arranged in the second chamber.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancing~~ lancet unit according to claim 14, further comprising a

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lid for hermetically closing the first chamber.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancing member~~ lancet unit according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 7, wherein the ~~support member case~~ includes a chamber for accommodating the cap, the ~~lancing member~~ lancet and the analytical part, and wherein the engagement means ~~and the additional engagement means~~ are ~~is~~ also arranged in the chamber.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~lancing member~~ lancet removal tool for removing a lancing ~~member fitted and mounted to lancet from~~ a movable member of a lancing apparatus, the lancing apparatus including a housing which has a front end formed with an opening and in which the movable member is arranged reciprocally movably, the lancet having an engagement surface oriented toward a rear side of the housing,

the lancet removal tool comprising:

a case temporarily attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus at the time of removing the lancet from the lancing apparatus;

a support member provided in the case; and

engagement means provided on the support member within the case for entering the housing through the opening for engagement with ~~[[an]]~~ the engagement surface of the ~~lancing member,~~ the engagement surface being oriented toward a rear side of the housing ~~lancet when the case is attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus,~~ the engagement means pulling the lancet from the movable member out of the housing when the case is detached from the housing.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~lancing member~~ lancet removal tool according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 17, further comprising additional engagement means provided ~~at the support member in the case;~~

wherein, when the ~~tubular portion case~~ is slid along and fitted to the front end of the housing with an analytical part mounted to a predetermined position in the lancing apparatus, the additional engagement means enters the housing through the opening and engages an additional engagement surface of the analytical part, the additional engagement surface being oriented toward ~~[[a]]~~ the rear side of the housing.

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20 - 22. (Canceled)